



Rate Relief for Small Post Offices

The Small Business Rate Relief Scheme is a new Government scheme that includes enhanced rate relief for post offices.

The aim is to help maintain services in disadvantaged areas, particularly our smaller independent post offices.

This fact sheet answers any questions that you may have about the scheme.

What is the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme?

The Small Business Rate Relief Scheme is a new Northern Ireland Government initiative that will provide small post offices with rate relief.

Who is eligible?

Eligibility is based on the net annual value (NAV) of the post office. The net annual value is also known as the rental value of a non domestic property.

There are two levels of Small Business Rate Relief:

1. Post offices with an NAV of £9,000 or less
2. Post offices with an NAV of more than £9,000 but not more than £12,000

How much relief will I receive?

The amount of relief you receive will be dependent on the net annual value (NAV) of your property:

1. Post offices with an NAV of £9,000 or less are awarded 100% relief
2. Post offices with an NAV of more than £9,000 but not more than £12,000 will receive 50% relief

The Small Business Rate Relief will provide post offices with an average relief of between £1,620 and £2,580 per year.

How do I apply?

There is no application procedure for the Small Business Rate Relief.

Instead, relief will be paid automatically by Land & Property Services to all post offices that qualify. This will make sure that all who are eligible will receive the benefit of the rate relief immediately.

When will I receive the Small Business Rate Relief?

Qualifying post offices will receive the relief on their April 2010 bill and each subsequent annual bill during the life of the scheme.

How long is it for?

It is intended that the scheme will have a life of 5 years and it will be reviewed before then to establish its effectiveness and value for money.

Why is net annual value (NAV) used?

It is much easier to administer, for ratepayers and government, than a scheme that is dependent on employment and turnover thresholds. It was decided to use the tried and tested criteria used in the rest of the UK namely NAV thresholds. This means that the scheme is really a small business premises relief scheme.

How do I find out what my NAV limits are?

Go to <http://lpsni.gov.uk/vListNDN/search.asp?submit=form> to search for the net annual value of your property. Alternatively this information should be on your rate bill.

Who do I contact for more information?

For more information, please phone 101.